(b) if so, the steps Government is taking for proper implementation of this programme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many States have diverted SSA funds to sectors and schemes not covered by the SSA; and

(d) if so, the names of the States and what action Government has taken against those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A vigorous system of monitoring of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is already in place which includes *inter-alia*, monthly and quarterly progress reports and review meetings, furnishing of annual elementary school statistics, field monitoring by 42 independent monitoring institutions and six monthly independent Review Missions. The audit arrangements for the State Implementing Societies (SIS) include audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Annual audit by independent chartered accountants and concurrent financial reviews through independent professional bodies. The gross enrolment ratio of girls has increased from 86.9% at primary level and 52.1% at upper primary level in 2001-02 to 107.84% and 69.51% in 2006-07. Dropout rate for girls has declined from 39.88% to 26.56% at primary level and 56.92% to 45.33% at elementary level for the same period.

(c) and (d) In the light of the report on the Performance Audit of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in August 2006, for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05, and the examination of the points raised therein by the Government of India and State/UT SSA programmes, an amount of about Rs.53 crores can be classified as expenditure not covered under the SSA guidelines. There has been no case of embezzlement. In cases of diversion of SSA funds for other educational purposes, the Government of India has directed States to recoup the inadmissible expenditure to the State SSA programmes. The States/UTs have been strictly instructed to avoid recurrence of such instances in future.

Opposition to Madarsa modernization programme

†1131. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the committee constituted by National Minority Commission Education Monitoring Committee to remove deficiencies from the modernization programme in respect of Madarsa modernization;

(b) the number of Madarsas, where revised programme has been implemented on the basis of these recommendations and the number of Madarsas where it can not be implemented;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that some sections are opposing the implementation of modernization programme;

(d) whether it is also a fact that non-modernization of Madarsa education has been one of the major reasons for the backwardness of muslim community; and

(e) if so, the steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) In the light of the findings of the Prime Ministers' High Level Committee on Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim community in India (Sachar Committee) and the recommendations of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities Education (NMCME) set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the erstwhile scheme for Madarsas Modernisation was revised as the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM). The objective of the SPQEM is to provide financial assistance and encourage traditional institutions like Madrasas and Maktabs to introduce Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum so that children studying in these institutions gain academic proficiency for classes I-XII. SPQEM also provides for accreditation of Madarsas to National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and vocational education for children in the 14+ age group. In addition, it provides for assistance for computer and science laboratories in Madarsas of Secondary and Higher Secondary level, as also assistance for book banks and science kits at all levels. The revised Scheme was circulated to all State/UT Governments in October, 2008 seeking proposals and is also placed on the website of Department of School Education and Literacy for publicity. No proposal on the reformulated Scheme has been received from any State. The State Secretaries and Directors have been advised to forward proposals as per the parameters of the new Scheme at the earliest. No instance of opposition to the scheme by any section has come to the notice of the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Absence of teachers

1132. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted a couple of years ago brought out that 41 out of 100 teachers in Government Primary Schools in Jharkhand remain absent without permission on any given day;

(b) what action has been initiated under various Central Government Schemes for improving teachers' presence in the Government Primary Schools in Jharkhand;

(c) what has been the response of the State Government of Jharkhand to the suggestions and directions given by the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) what is the position of utilization of grants given for this purpose?